

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1 line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

-- The present application is a continuation-in-part application of a previously filed, ~~now pending~~ application having Serial No. 09/976,737, filed on October 12, 2001, which is set to issued on December 9, 2003, as U.S. Patent No. 6,659,879[,]. ~~having Serial No. 09/976,737, filed on October 12, 2001.~~

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2 line 23 with the following amended paragraph:

-- In order to overcome the disadvantages and problems of the type set forth, there have been numerous attempts in the prior art to develop a modified table construction which is lighter, less expensive, smaller and as a result is more obtainable by the average consumer or billiards player. Conventional or known modifications in the prior art include the provision of collapsible or folding tables which can be

manipulated and/or otherwise oriented so as to facilitate the storage of ~~the~~ such billiard tables when not in use. In addition, even when such modified structures are left in their operative positions they are significantly lighter and usually smaller thereby enabling their positioning into and out of a stored location with relative ease. While operable and at least somewhat effective for their intended purpose foldable, collapsible or similarly structured billiard or like gaming tables may often suffer from a lack of stability. Accordingly, anyone familiar with the playing of billiards or pocket billiards is well aware that the stability of the table and playing surface is very important, especially to those who play the game on a more serious level.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8 line 11 with the following amended paragraph:

-- The table assembly of the present invention further includes a conversion assembly movably mounted and selectively positionable between a stored position and an operative

position. Further, the conversion assembly preferably includes a plurality of conversion members sufficient in number and cooperatively disposed such that each of the conversion members, when in the aforementioned operative position, are disposed above and in overlying relation to the peripheral portions of ~~the~~ each of the sides of the table top.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10 line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

-- The convertible table assembly of the present invention comprises yet another preferred embodiment which is structured to add to the overall appearance as well as the utility of the table assembly especially when the conversion assembly is in the stored position. More specifically, this preferred embodiment of the present invention comprises at least one, but more practically, a plurality of cover members secured to the tabletop adjacent the peripheral portions or sides thereof. Each of the one or more cover members extends outwardly from the periphery of the tabletop in an orientation which is preferably, but not necessarily, in substantially co-planar relation to the table top and/or the outer surface thereof.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10 line 16 with the following amended paragraph:

-- In a most preferred embodiment the plurality of cover members extend along at least a majority, but preferably the entire length of each of the peripheral sides of the tabletop. As such, the plurality of cover members collectively surround the periphery so as to expand or enlarge the usable outer exposed surface of the table assembly. Hence, it is preferred that the cover members are disposed in substantially co-planar relation to the outer surface 14 of the table assembly thereby further facilitating the expansion or enhancement of that surface.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 12 line 17 with the following amended paragraph:

-- Figure 2 is an side view in partial cutaway showing one of a plurality of conversion structures, preferably in the form of a side rail, disposed in a stored position, wherein a portion

of the apron of the embodiment of Figure 1 is removed for purposes of clarity.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 18 line 19 with the following amended paragraph:

-- While one preferred embodiment of the positioning assembly 40 includes the plurality of linkage structures, as described above, it is emphasized that the positioning assembly 40 may assume a variety of different structural configurations and operative components. The positioning assembly 40 may differ ~~from~~ from the embodiment as set forth above in order to best facilitate the travel and placement of the plurality of conversion members 28 from the stored position of Figure 2, through the intermediate position of Figure 3 and eventually into the operative position of Figure 4.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 19 line 23 with the following amended paragraph:

-- In order to further enhance the appearance of the table assembly 10 when in its conventional orientation, the aforementioned aprons 20 may be secured to or considered an integral part of the outer surface of the base 30 and/or conversion member 28. Therefore, when the conversion members 28 are disposed in their respective stored positions, the aprons 20 will be automatically disposed in their conventional location as shown in Figure 1. The appearance of the table assembly 10 is thereby enhanced, without requiring additional mounting or positioning of a detached apron 20. It is of course recognized that in certain instances it may be more desirable to removably attached the apron 20 to the various conversion members 28 or otherwise to the under portion 22. Such an additional embodiment is also contemplated to be within the spirit and scope of the present invention.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 22 line 10 with the following amended paragraph:

-- Further, when in the operative position of Figures 7 and 8, each of the cover members 70 overly and therefore substantially cover correspondingly ~~portioned~~ positioned portions of the conversion assembly 26 as well as the under portion 22 and the plurality of spaces 22' defining the under portion 22. As set forth above, the outer or laterally exposed surface of each of the conversion member 26 may define an apron 20 as disclosed in Figures 1 and 2. Accordingly, when the cover member 70 is in its overlying, covering relation to corresponding ones of the conversion members 26, a majority of each of the conversion members 26 will effectively be covered or hidden such that the table assembly 10, when in its conventional orientation, have a natural and aesthetically pleasing appearance.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 23 line 20 with the following amended paragraph:

-- It should be further noted that when it is desired to position the table assembly 10 in the gaming orientation, each of the cover members 70 can be independently removed from their operative position in Figure 7. This allows the individual conversion members 28 to be rotated or otherwise disposed upwardly from their stored and/or outwardly extended position into their operative position as demonstrated in Figure 4.